THAMES PATH
NATIONAL TRAIL

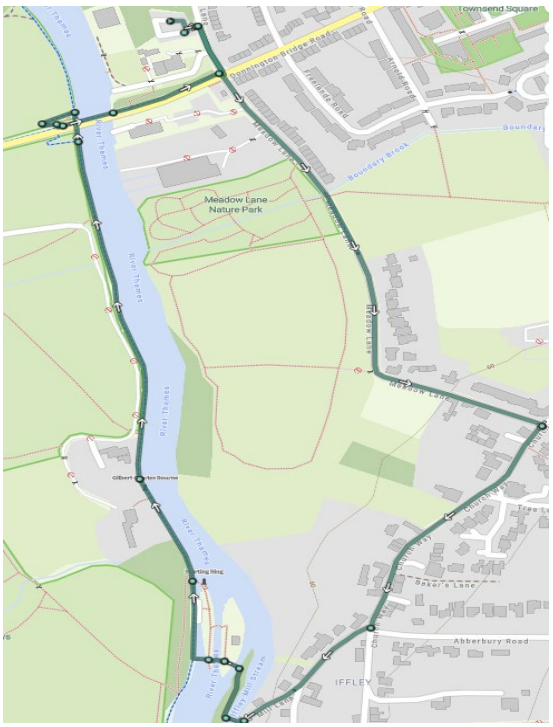
IFFLEY WALK

Description: This family friendly circular walk will take us to the village of Iffley just south of Oxford. We will have the option of visiting St Mary the Virgin Church with its stunning stained-glass window by John Piper. We shall also cross over a weir bridge and Iffley lock, passing the Mathematical bridge. We then join the Thames Path for our return trip. If dry, we can extend the walk around Iffley Meadows.

Distance: 1.5 miles. **Duration:** Up to an hour. **Difficulty:** Easy.

Refreshments / toilets: Along this route there are two pubs, also Iffley community shop to stop at for refreshments.

Start point: Oxford City Car park (it is signed "Falcon Rowing and Canoeing Club") situated in Meadow Lane just north of Donnington Bridge Road - turn right into Meadow Lane if coming from the A4158 Iffley Roadside or turn left into Meadow Lane if coming from the A4144 Abingdon Road side.
Postcode for satnav is OX4 4BJ. Please don't park on Meadow Lane itself as this upset's residents.



Public Transport:
Bus: Routes 3 and ST1 start at the City Centre and run along Iffley Road with a convenient stop at Donnington Co-Op/Post Office.

Stained Glass Window
St Mary the Virgin Church



Photo of the Mathematical bridge



IFFLEY WALK

Route Description:

1. Start the walk on Donnington Bridge Road. Cross the road and walk down the Meadow Lane past the Bridge Stores shop with on your right.

2. Continue along the lane towards the village of Iffley. Turn right at the T junction where Meadow Lane joins Church Way and head through Iffley village passing the Prince of Wales (closed on Tues) and Iffley Village community shop on your left. If you want to visit the Church continue on Church Way until you reach the thatched Church Hall with the church ahead. If you don't wish to visit the Church just turn right onto Mill Lane until you reach the Manor House on your left. Directly opposite are steep steps, follow the sign for Iffley Lock.

3. The late Romanesque church of St Mary the Virgin was built in the 1160s. The church is usually open for visitors. Out of the church gate, turn left down Mill Lane. Continue until you reach the Manor House on your right.

4. Directly opposite are some steep steps leading down - signed to Iffley Lock. The original lock was built by the Oxford-Burcot Commission in 1631 and the Thames Navigation Commission replaced this in 1793. Just over the lock bridge you can see the replica of the Mathematical Bridge over the Thames. The Mathematical Bridge was built in 1924 to the original 1749 design by William Etheridge in Cambridge. The bridge appears to be an arch but it is composed entirely of straight timbers.

5. Cross over to the other side of the river and turn right along the towpath to join the Thames Path passing the Isis Farmhouse (opening hours, Thursday 17.00-22.00, Friday 17.00-midnight, Saturday 12.00-21.30, Sunday 12.00-22.30).

6. BBOWT Iffley Meadows Nature Reserve is just ahead on the left, where you can choose to explore these ancient water meadows with lovely waterside paths along the Weir Mills Streams. The meadows are also a nature reserve notable for their large population of snake's head fritillaries in the spring, Alternatively, keep the river on your right and walk through Iffley Meadow SSSI (Site of Scientific Interest) to reach Donnington Bridge or continue along the Thames Path.

7. At the bridge turn left up the slope then right along the pavement, across the bridge and back to your car on Meadow Lane or to Iffley Road to catch the buses 3 & ST1 back into Oxford.